

Dear Sir,

The present communication is in response to the Office Action mailed December 20, 2002 relating to the specified case;

kindly enter the following amendments and remarks.

In the claims:

Please amend claims 1,2, 10 and 16 to read as shown below:

Add new claim 18 as shown.

Please delete claims 7 and 17.

A version of the amended claims showing the insertions and deletions is attached.

1. (Once amended) Moulding element for motor vehicle bodies comprising:

- a main section bar (2) of elongated conformation;
- attachment means (6) operatively associated to the main section bar (2) and destined to engage a corresponding securing area (5a) of a body (5) of a motor vehicle, said attachment means (6) including:

- a continuous support support element (7) engaged to the main section bar (2), said support element (7) presenting a pre-set number of attachment seats (11) located at a pre-set mutual distance suitable for engagement with the corresponding projections carried by said securing area (5a);

- a longitudinal seat (8) on the main section bar (2) for receiving said continuous support element (7), the longitudinal seat (8) presenting in cross-section a longitudinal opening (10) to allow access to said attachment seats (11) and undercuts (12) acting in opposition on the

corresponding bearing portion (13) of the continuous support element (7), wherein said undercuts (12) of the main section bar (2) are capable of preventing extraction of the attachment means (6) through the longitudinal opening, said main section bar (2) and said continuous support element (7) not being made in resilient material; and a flexible seal lip (4) extending longitudinally along substantially the entire development of the moulding element itself and presenting a base portion (4a) engaged on the main section bar.

C1
cont.
2. (Once amended) Moulding element according to claim 1, characterized in that:

said longitudinal seat (8) is substantially corresponding to said continuous support element (7), the continuous support element (7) being inserted in the corresponding longitudinal seat (8); and in that in a first operative condition of the moulding element (1), where the continuous support element (7) is separated from the body (5), the continuous support element (7) is exclusively and directly engaged only the main section bar (2) and, in the second operative condition of the moulding element (1) where the moulding element (1) is fully assembled and mounted on the body (5), the continuous support element is directly and exclusively attached to the main section bar (2) and to the projections (9) carried by said securing area (5a); and in that no other attachment means are associated to the continuous support element (7) for directly attaching the same to the body (5).

C2
10. (Once amended) Moulding element according to claim 1, characterized in that the the continuous support element (7) presents a pre-set number of attachment seats (11) delimited at least in one side of the continuous element (7) destined to face the body, by a peripheral lip defining a closed line.

C3
16. (Twice amended) Method for the manufacturing of the moulding element and for

assembling the same to a motor vehicle body comprising the following phases:

- C3
- realizing a main section bar (2) of elongated conformation and provided with a longitudinal seat (8);
 - realizing a continuous support element (7) of elongated conformation extending substantially over an entire longitudinal development of the main section bar (2) and presenting a pre-set number of attachment seats (11) positioned at a pre-set mutual distance;
 - engaging the continuous support element (7) to the main section bar (2) prior to associating the moulding element (1) to the body (5) of a motor vehicle; and
 - axially fastening the main section bar (2) and the support element (7) prior to associating the moulding element (1) to the body (5) of a motor vehicle,
 - said engaging phase of the continuous support element (7) to the main section bar (2) being realized by sliding the continuous support element (7) through the longitudinal seat (8).
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New claim 18

18. Moulding element for motocar bodies comprising:

- C4
- a main section bar (2) of elongated conformation; ✓
 - attachment means (6) operatively associated with the main section bar (2) and destined to engage corresponding securing area (5a) of the body (5) of a motor vehicle, said attachment means (6) including: ✓
 - a continuous support element (7) extending substantially over an entire longitudinal development of the main section bar (2) and engaged to the main section bar (2), said support element (7) presenting a plurality of attachment seats (11) delimited at least in one side of the

continuous support element (7) destined to face the body (5) by a peripheral lip, the peripheral lip delimiting for each attachment seats (11) at least a large area (11a) for the insertion of a fastening projection (9) and at least a small area (11b) for blocking the fastening projection (9) in an axial direction of motion of the moulding element away from the body, the small areas (11b) of the attachment seats (11) having same shape and identical dimensions, said attachment seats (11) being located at a pre-set mutual distance for engaging a projection (9) each, and;

- a longitudinal seat (8) on the main section bar (2) for receiving said continuous support element (7), the longitudinal seat (8) presenting in cross-section a longitudinal opening (10) to allow access to said attachment seats (11) and undercuts (12) acting in opposition on a corresponding bearing portion (13) of the continuous support element (7). - -

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